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Wetherby Rural District Council



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REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT  
DURING YEAR 1953

by

RONALD G. SMITHSON

Medical Officer of Health

and

JOHN MARRIOTT

Engineer, Surveyor and

Chief Sanitary Inspector



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# WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## **CHAIRMAN:**

L. R. BURRELL, Esq., J.P., 4, Raby Park, Wetherby

## **VICE-CHAIRMAN:**

J. NORFOLK, Esq., J.P., Northfield, Tockwith

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

Chairman: F. K. ABBEY, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: G. H. RAWLINGS, Esq.

## **THE FULL COUNCIL**

## **HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Chairman: R. F. THATCHER, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: A. HAIGH-LUMBY, Esq.

## **THE FULL COUNCIL**

## **WATER COMMITTEE**

Chairman: R. PROCTOR, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: J. W. WATSON, Esq.

Together with 16 Members of the Council

## **PERSONNEL DETAILS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953**

### **DIVISIONAL HEALTH ORGANISATION**

#### **Medical Officer of Health:**

#### **Divisional Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer:**

RONALD G. SMITHSON, M.D., Ch.B.(Hons.), D.P.H.

#### **Assistant County Medical Officer:**

J. A. G. GRAHAM, M.B., Ch.B.

#### **Part-time Medical Officers at Clinics:**

C. E. ASTON, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

H. B. COOK, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.

R. P. LAWSON, M.C., M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

A. MACFARLANE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.C.H., D.P.H.

C. E. MATHIESON, M.B., Ch.B.

W. MURPHY, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

J. PHILLIPS, M.D., M.B., Ch.B.

#### **Consultants and Specialists Working in Division:**

##### **Ear, Nose and Throat:**

R. Thomas, B.A., B.M., B.Ch. (Oxon), D.L.C.

##### **Eye:**

L. Wittels, M.D., D.O. (Oxon).

##### **Orthopaedic:**

D. Scott, M.B., Ch.B.

##### **Paediatric:**

L. J. Prosser, M.B., Ch.B.

##### **Tuberculosis:**

W. S. Gilmour, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B.

V. Ryan, M.D., D.P.H.

S. P. Wilson, M.D., D.P.H.

##### **Orthodontic Specialist:**

Miss R. Sclare, L.D.S.

##### **Dental Officers:**

G. O. Wood, L.D.S.

D. B. Owen, L.D.S.

##### **Speech Therapist:**

Miss M. P. Dunkley, L.C.S.T.

## PERSONNEL DETAILS—Continued

### NURSING STAFF:

#### Health Visitors/School Nurses:

Miss G. E. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.  
Miss I. V. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Queen's).  
Miss J. W. Brigham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.  
Miss M. Manuel, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., D.N.  
Mrs. E. Marsden, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.  
Miss M. Pepper, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., D.N.  
Miss C. Swift, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

#### Home Nurse:

Miss L. Evamy, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).

#### Home Nurses/Midwives:

Miss E. E. Basher, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).  
Miss V. E. M. Finbow, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).  
Miss C. A. Fox, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's).  
Miss A. Girdlestone, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Miss H. M. Clennie, S.R.N., C.M.B.  
Miss A. E. Hickes, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Miss E. C. Hodgson, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).  
Miss E. Ingleby, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Queen's).  
Mrs. G. Jeffries, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Mrs. A. M. Linins, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Queen's).  
Mrs. E. Linley, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Miss M. Murphy, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Miss W. E. Payne, S.E.A.N., C.M.B.  
Miss M. E. Watson, S.R.N., C.M.B.

#### Dental Attendants:

Miss Ullathorne.  
Miss Dawson.

#### Physiotherapist:

Vacant.

#### Assistant Health Visitor/School Nurse:

Mrs. E. Clark, S.R.N.

#### Tuberculosis Visitor:

Mrs. E. M. Askam, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert. (Queen's).

#### V.D. Social Worker:

Mrs. Doidge-Harrison.

#### Mental Health:

Miss C. M. Glover (Social Worker).  
Miss C. M. Leng (Home Teacher).

### CLERICAL STAFF:

Senior Clerk: F. H. Atack.  
Mrs. M. P. Gamble.  
Miss S. Graham.  
Miss J. M. Lawn.  
Mrs. D. M. A. Stephenson.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE:

Depot Officer: T. G. Woodhouse.



## PERSONNEL DETAILS—Continued

### ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER'S DEPARTMENT

\* **Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer:**

JOHN MARRIOTT, Chartered Municipal Engineer, M.I.Mun.E.,  
A.M.T.P.I., M.Inst.P.C., M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.

\* **Deputy Surveyor and Deputy Chief Sanitary Officer:**

WILLIAM LEONARD BARNSELY, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

**Assistant Surveyor and Assistant Sanitary Inspector:**

PETER TELFORD, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

**General Foreman (Public Health):**

Brian Wood.

**General Foreman (Water):**

Norman Rhodes.

**Clerk of Works (Housing):**

Frederick Clarkson.

**Draughtsman/Clerk:**

Thomas H. Whitehouse.

**General Clerk:**

Bryan C. Betts.

**Shorthand Typist:**

Miss M. Portway.

**Junior Assistant:**

Miss C. Whitmore.

**Consultant Engineer:**

Wilf. K. Rodwell, Chartered Civil Engineer, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mun.E.

**Consultant Architects:**

W. A. Jones, F.R.I.B.A.

G. A. Burnett, A.R.I.B.A.

C. W. C. Needham, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I.

R. B. Armistead, F.R.I.B.A.

Anthony Steel and Owen, A./A.R.I.B.A.

\* Exchequer contributions to the salaries of these officers under the  
Local Government Act, 1933

Wetherby House,  
WETHERBY.  
August, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Wetherby Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In some respects the Vital Statistics for 1953 compare unfavourably with those for the previous year.

The Infant Mortality rate has risen appreciably by reason of the fact that 12 babies under the age of one year died as compared with 6 in 1952. In addition, the death rate was over ten per thousand of the population and the number of deaths from cancer at all ages rose from 30 to 38.

More favourable is the fact that the birth rate was increased and the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis reduced.

Careful perusal of the details of the infant deaths gives no indication that it bears any relationship to the closure of Hazlewood Maternity Home at the middle of last year.

The Council was enabled to make progress in matters affecting the Sanitary Circumstances of the District by the commencement of two large sewerage schemes. In addition, the water supply in the area was improved as a direct result of the work carried out consequential upon taking over the Wetherby Water Company's Undertaking.

Two Items of special mention are the fact that you, Sir, became the first wearer of the Council's new Chairman's badge of Office, and the Council was awarded the Housing Medal for the region in respect of the North Rigton Housing Scheme. During a year in which the Items considered by the Council were many and varied, it is with sincerity one thanks you and members of the Council for continued support and encouragement and to Brother Officers of the Council, too, one would express appreciation for ready assistance at all times.

The deficiency of Staff in my own Office continues, and being well aware of this deficiency, one is particularly appreciative of the hard work and support of all those employed here.

A particular word of appreciation, too, is extended to members of the Divisional Health Administration Staff who work in the area outside the Office.

I am,

Mr. Chairman,

Your obedient Servant,

RONALD G. SMITHSON,  
Medical Officer of Health.

PART 1. REPORT AS MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64,424
Population 1951 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,338
Population—Registrar-General's Estimate mid-1953	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20,810
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,281
Rateable Value 31/3/54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£133,499
Product of 1d. Rate 31/3/54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£509
District Council General Rate 1953/54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5/8
County Council General Rate 1953/54	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15/6

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

						Male		Female		Total
Live Births: Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	142	...	134	...	276
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	8	...	15
						Totals	...	142	...	291

Birth Rate per thousand population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.0
Stillbirths 8. Rate per thousand total births	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.8
Illegitimate live births represent 5.4 per cent. of total live births.										
Total Deaths from all Causes 216. Crude Death Rate per thousand population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.4
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.3
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth was	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year:										
All Infants per thousand live births (12)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41.2
Legitimate Infants per thousand legitimate live births (11)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil



# WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT

Comparable Vital Statistics for the year 1953

Based on the Registrar-General's Figures

	Wetherby Rural District	Aggregate West Riding Rural Districts	West Riding Admin- County	England & Wales Provi- sional figures)
BIRTH RATE:—				
(Per 1,000 estimated population)	14.0	16.6	15.7	15.5
DEATH RATES:—				
(All per 1,000 estimated popula- tion) All Causes ... ..	10.4	9.3	11.6	11.4
Infective and Para. Dis. excl. Tub. but incl. Syphilis and other V.D. ... ..	0.05	0.07	0.08	*
Tuberculosis Respiratory ... ..	0.05	0.13	0.16	0.18
Tuberculosis Other ... ..	—	0.02	0.02	0.02
Cancer ... ..	1.83	1.57	1.88	1.99
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System ... ..	1.49	1.24	1.76	*
Heart and Circulatory ... ..	3.84	3.27	4.26	*
Respiratory Diseases ... ..	0.82	1.06	1.30	*
Maternal Mortality (Deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and stillbirths) ...	—	0.81	0.51	0.76
Infant Mortality ... ..	41.2	33.3	29.3	26.80

\* Figures not available

# COMPARABLE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT From 1939 to Date

Year	Estimated Population at Mid-Year	Natural Variation		Live Births		Deaths			
		Increase.	Decrease	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population (iv)	Total (v)	Rate per 1,000 Population (vi)	Under One Year (vii)	Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) (viii)
(i)	(ii)	(iii)							
1939	16,920	7	—	236	13.93	229	13.15	9	38.00
1940	18,130	—	25	214	11.80	239	13.18	15	65.00
1941	18,910	4	—	243	13.91	239	12.64	15	55.35
1942	18,890	56	—	307	16.25	251	13.28	14	45.60
1943	19,240	69	—	295	15.33	226	11.75	7	23.75
1944	20,140	143	—	344	17.00	201	9.98	20	58.00
1945	19,460	138	—	328	16.83	190	9.76	10	30.49
1946	18,820	159	—	380	20.20	221	11.70	11	29.00
1947	18,890	133	—	340	18.00	207	11.00	8	24.00
1948	19,470	110	—	298	15.31	188	9.66	8	27.00
1949	19,440	112	—	315	16.20	203	10.40	10	31.40
1950	20,270	30	—	282	13.91	252	12.43	8	28.37
1951	20,530	20	—	278	13.50	258	12.60	3	10.80
1952	20,540	65	—	268	13.00	203	9.90	6	22.40
1953	20,810	75	—	291	14.00	216	10.40	12	41.20

## CAUSES OF CIVILIAN DEATHS

### Registrar-General's Abridged List of Causes of Deaths in the District during 1953

		NUMBER		
		Male	Female	Total
CAUSE				
1.	Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ... ..	1	—	1
2.	Tuberculosis (Other) ... ..	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic (Disease) ... ..	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—	—
8.	Measles ... ..	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	—	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ... ..	4	6	10
11.	Malignant Neoplasm (Lung Bronchus) ... ..	2	1	3
12.	Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ... ..	—	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ... ..	—	3	3
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	11	8	19
15.	Leukaemia (Aleukaemia) ... ..	2	—	2
16.	Diabetes ... ..	—	2	2
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	12	19	31
18.	Coronary Disease (Angina) ... ..	21	9	30
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	—	2	2
20.	Other Heart Disease ... ..	19	21	40
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	4	4	8
22.	Influenza ... ..	5	1	6
23.	Pneumonia ... ..	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis ... ..	4	2	6
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	2	—	2
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	3	—	3
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	—	3	3
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..	—	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	1	2
32.	Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ... ..	11	13	24
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	1	3
34.	All Other Accidents ... ..	2	3	5
35.	Suicide ... ..	3	—	3
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	—	—	—
Total ...		115	101	216

From the Registrar-General's list of causes of death in the District during 1953, it will be seen that the most frequent causes of death, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand population were:—

1.	Heart and Circulatory disease	80, equivalent to death rate of 3.84
2.	Cancer ... ..	38, equivalent to death rate of 1.83
3.	Intra cranial vascular lesions	31, equivalent to death rate of 1.49
4.	Accidents (Motor 3) ... ..	8, equivalent to death rate of 0.40
5.	Influenza ... ..	6, equivalent to death rate of 0.28
6.	Bronchitis ... ..	6, equivalent to death rate of 0.28



## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Housing**

Detailed figures showing the number of houses completed and the number of houses in course of erection at the end of 1953 are given in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. The Council has no reason to be ashamed of its achievement in 1953, but at the same time the increasing financial burden resulting from building Council Houses continues to engage the Council's close attention. Whether the financial burden is regarded by the body of Ratepayers as great as it is by the Council is a matter of some doubt, and one feels very sure that the people who are applying for Council Houses often time do so without any thought of being provided with an up-to-date house at the expense of other people. One sometimes wonders whether the time has not arrived when consideration should be given at a national level to building houses without any subsidy at all.

The fact that so many people wish to live in houses with full modern amenity indicates that education in the matter of housing demands a much higher standard than it did in the past.

It would appear that the family in need of a house may be the very family without the wherewithal to afford a high rent, and it might be worthy of considering varying Family Allowances as the size of the family increases in such a way as to ensure money being available to the family for housing purposes.

### **Water Supply**

The purchase of the Wetherby Water Company's Undertaking by the Council was completed during the course of the year. The electrification of the Bardsey Pumping Station will, we understand, produce water there at a lesser cost. The Stockeld Bore would appear to have been a good investment judged by its performance during 1953.

Two items under this heading still give rise to concern. The supply of water in the Harewood District is still unsatisfactory and the hardness of the water, especially in the Eastern part of the District, is a matter which the Council would wish to improve in the not too distant future.

### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

The Western Area Scheme and the Thorp Arch Scheme were commenced during 1953, and it would have given pleasure to my predecessor, Dr. Hargreaves, to know the high percentage of properties in a Rural Area such as this which are now connected to a Main Drainage System.



## Miscellaneous

The Scavenging Service in the District compares favourably with that in many Rural Areas but the frequency of collection does not yet reach the Public Health ideal of a weekly one. The Council, though favourably disposed to such a collection, hesitates to increase the overall cost of the service which might be involved. It is hoped to be able to make such suggestions as to how best to achieve the ideal that the Council will view favourably the necessary steps being taken.

During the course of the year consideration was given to installing washing facilities in Public Conveniences in Wetherby and it is regretted the Council hesitates to instal such facilities because of past experience of damage by members of the Public.

# PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total	Cases sent to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ... ..	31	13	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	131	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	3	3	—
Measles ... ..	259	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ... ..	11	—	3
Dysentery ... ..	3	2	—
Erysipelas ... ..	2	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	2	2	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	—	—

## Comments

### Whooping Cough

It is interesting to notice that no evidence is available to show that any Notified Case of Whooping Cough during 1953 had previously been vaccinated against the disease.

### Poliomyelitis

Two of the three cases notified were retrospective diagnoses and the third case almost certainly contracted the infection elsewhere.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following figures show the state of the register at 31-12-53.

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
38	30	15	13	96

This is a decrease of 5 cases over the figures at 31-12-52.

Analysis of new notifications and deaths from Tuberculosis during year.

## CIVILIAN TUBERCULOSIS

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
0—	...	...	...	...	—	—	...	—
1—	...	...	...	...	—	1	...	—
5—	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	—
15—	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	—
25—	...	...	...	...	4	—	...	—
35—	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	—
45—	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	—
55—	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	1
65 over	...	...	...	...	1	—	...	—

Service Cases : Nil.

**Report as  
Divisional Medical Officer  
for 1953**

# CLINIC ARRANGEMENTS IN DIVISION No. 9 (Tadcaster and Wetherby Rural Districts).

Abbreviations: A.N.—Ante-Natal. I.W.—Infant Welfare. E.N.T.—Ear, Nose and Throat. T.B.—Tuberculosis.

TOWNSHIP	LOCATION	PURPOSE	DAY AND TIME
<b>MEDICAL OFFICERS' CLINICS (Static)</b>			
Bardsey	Trustees Hall.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Mondays, 1-30 p.m.
Barwick-in-Elmet	Methodist Schoolroom	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Boston Spa	West End Nursery School.	I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Church Fenton	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Church Fenton	R.A.F. Station.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 1-30 p.m.
Micklefield	Methodist Chapel.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Sherburn-in-Elmet	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m.
Swillington	Wakefield Road (Hut nr. Church).	(A.N./I.W.) (Minor Ailment.)	Every Thursday, 1-30 p.m. Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m.
Tadcaster	Multiple Clinic, Leeds Road.	(A.N.) (I.W.) (Minor Ailment.) (Speech Therapy.) (Orthopaedic Treatment.) (Ultra Violet Light.)	Alternately Wednesday, 10-0 a.m., and Friday, 1-30 p.m. Alternate Tuesdays, 1-30 p.m. Every Tuesday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Monday, 2-0 p.m. Every Monday and Thursday, 9-30 a.m. (Winter months only).
Tockwith	Methodist Sunday School.	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Mondays, 1-30 p.m.
Wetherby	Crossley Street.	(A.N.) (I.W.) (Minor Ailment.) (Speech Therapy.)	Alternate Wednesdays, 1-30 p.m. Every Thursday, 1-30 p.m. Every Thursday, 9-30 a.m. Every Tuesday, 2 p.m.
<b>MEDICAL OFFICERS' CLINICS (Mobile)</b>			
Appleton Roebuck	Village Green	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m.
Copmanthorpe	Lower Green	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Thursdays, 2 p.m.
East Keswick	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m.
Huby	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.
Ledston	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 10 a.m.
Thorner	Village Institute	A.N./I.W.	Alternate Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
<b>CONSULTATIVE CLINICS</b>			
Tadcaster	Multiple Clinic, Leeds Road.	(T.B.) (Ophthalmic) (E.N.T.) (Paediatric.) (Orthopaedic)	2nd and 4th Tuesday each month, 10 a.m. Every alternate Friday, 9-30 a.m. Every 4th Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. 2nd Wednesday each month, 2 p.m. 1st Thursday each month, 1-30 p.m.
Wetherby	Crossley Street.	Ophthalmic.	Every alternate Friday, 1-30 p.m.



## **PART II. REPORT AS DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER**

It will be remembered that the Medical Officer of Health to the Tadcaster and Wetherby Rural District Councils is also Divisional Medical Officer to the West Riding County Council for the same area.

The contents of this part of the Report relate to the whole Division unless otherwise stated and since the Divisional Scheme is a Partnership between the County Council and the District Councils the insertion of the Divisional Medical Officer's Report in the Annual Health Report is to acquaint members of the two District Councils with the details of work carried on in the Divisional Health Office during 1953.

Several changes of Staff have occurred during the year. Dr. J. A. G. Graham joined us on the 1st July and we have found his help most acceptable. Miss Buck the Mental Health Social Worker was transferred to another part of the County and the resolution by the District Council acknowledging her services here was received with gratification. Mrs. E. Bithell who served the Church Fenton area so faithfully retired during the year. Miss Ingleby joined the Staff of Home Nurse Midwives and has become an integral member of the team.

### **SCHOOL CHILDREN**

Routine periodic school medical examinations were carried out on 3,036 children. 285 re-inspections of defects found at previous examinations were recorded and 28 special examinations were made at the request of Heads of Schools. 389 individual children were found to have 411 defects requiring treatment, and out of the total children examined 1,666 items of defects requiring observation were discovered. 0.8% of the children seen were estimated to be below average nutrition.

The School Nurses conducted 12,696 Cleanliness Examinations and discovered 191 children showing signs of infestation with lice. It should be explained that each School Nurse visits her own Schools after each main holiday for this purpose.

The number of cases dealt with at Minor Ailment Clinics at Swillington, Tadcaster and Wetherby totalled 71 in the year.

The following figures relate to dentistry carried out in the Division :—

	Total
Number of children inspected ... ..	7,841
Number of children found to require treatment ... ..	4,210
Number of children offered treatment ... ..	4,520
Number of children treated ... ..	2,741
Number of attendances ... ..	4,130
Number of extractions:	
Temporary teeth ... ..	3,003
Permanent teeth ... ..	242
Number of general anaesthetics ... ..	17
Number of fillings:	
Temporary teeth ... ..	315
Permanent teeth ... ..	3,119
Number of other treatments:	
Temporary teeth ... ..	110
Permanent teeth ... ..	216

Consultative Clinics operated throughout the year and the following Statistics apply :—

### **Eye Clinic**

323 children were examined, spectacles were prescribed in 148 cases and I understand spectacles were obtained in 126 cases.

### **Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic**

135 children attended the Monthly Clinic and 56 were referred for operative treatment. 53 of those operations had been carried out by the end of the year.

### **Orthopaedic Clinic**

105 children attended the 12 sessions on 167 occasions. 40 were referred to Hospital for treatment.

### **Paediatric Clinic**

63 children made 74 attendances at 11 Sessions.

### **Speech Therapy Clinic**

48 children received treatment at 132 Sessions.

### **Sunray Clinic**

32 cases received treatment.

# MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

The outstanding development in this area during 1953 was the commencement of service by the Mobile Clinic Unit at six different points on three days per fortnight. In the main the sites selected were those which either are not easily accessible to one of the 10 Clinic premises established in permanent buildings or where it had not been found possible to find a suitable permanent building to open a Clinic.

It is interesting to know that 777 attendances were made at 82 sessions held for Infant Welfare purposes and 22 attendances by 9 mothers for Ante-Natal purposes. These figures are not large but in my judgment the benefit of bringing Clinic facilities to Parishes such as are now served by the Mobile Clinic here is well worth while.

The Clinics held in permanent buildings mainly rented from Church or Chapel Authorities continued to give service during the year and in total the Infant Welfare Clinics were attended by 1,200 children on 7,625 occasions. The Ante-Natal Clinics were attended by 172 Expectant Mothers on 771 occasions. 59 Mothers attended for Post-Natal Examinations.

The seven Health Visitors working in this Division made the following visits during the year :—

Number of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuber- culosis House- hold	Other Cases
	First Visit	Total Visits	First Visit	Total Visits	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
907	218	700	735	4539	2124	3721	15	4123

“ Other Cases ” include visits for such purposes as reporting on still-births and infant deaths, infectious diseases, care of old people, hospital after-care etc.

# MATERNITY HOME ACCOMMODATION

Despite vigorous opposition from the two District Councils Hazlewood Castle Maternity Home was closed during the first week of July, 1953, and in consequence it was necessary to make arrangement for Expectant Mothers wishing to have Maternity Home Accommodation to obtain bookings in Castleford, Harrogate, Wakefield and York. The following Table showing the places of confinement for mothers from this area during the two halves of 1952 and 1953 is of interest :—



## CONFINEMENTS OF MOTHERS IN DIVISION 9

				1952		1953			
				First Half	Second Half	First Half	Second Half		
Total	...	...	...	305	329	351	383		
Domiciliary	...	...	...	99	115	114	152		
Institutional	...	...	...	206	214	237			
								Total	Bookings by This Office
								231	132
Acomb	...	...	...	7	2	12		31	29
York County	...	...	...	—	—	1		—	—
Hazlewood	...	...	...	149	130	127		7	All
Westow Croft	...	...	...	—	—	—		1	All
Walton Hall	...	...	...	—	—	—		24	All
Wakefield General	...	...	...	—	—	—		7	All
Manygates	...	...	...	—	—	—		2	All
Castleford	...	...	...	—	—	—		1	All
Leeds Maternity	...	...	...	12	16	17		32	None
St. Mary's	...	...	...	—	5	2		6	2
St. James	...	...	...	3	1	3		7	None
Harrogate General	...	...	...	12	20	41		71	56
Otley General	...	...	...	1	1	1		2	All
St. Winifreds, Ilkley	...	...	...	1	—	—		1	All
Private Nursing Homes	...	...	...	21	39	33		39	None

Credit is due to the Domiciliary Midwives working here for the way in which they dealt with the additional domiciliary confinements during the latter half of the year.

### MIDWIFERY

This Division is served by 15 Domiciliary Nurses of whom all but one combine the duties of Home Nursing and Midwifery. The following table gives details of the work carried out by the Midwives during 1953.

### NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA DURING THE YEAR—DOMICILIARY CASES

	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals
	Doctor present at delivery	Doctor not present at delivery	Doctor present at delivery	Doctor not present at delivery	
Midwives employed by the Authority ...	7	79	84	95	265
Midwives in Private Practice (including Midwives employed in Nursing Home) ...	—	1	4	—	5
Total	7	80	88	95	270

Number of cases delivered in Institutions but attended by domiciliary midwives on discharge from Institutions before the fourteenth day ... .. 59



## Breast Feeding

Number of domiciliary cases in which the infant was wholly breast fed at the fourteenth day ... ..	226
--	-----

## Statutory Notices received from Midwives

1.	Death of	(a) Mother	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
		(b) Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
2.	Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
3.	Substitution of Artificial Feeding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
4.	Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
5.	Medical Aids issued because of complications arising in/during :—								
	(a)	Pregnancy	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	(b)	Labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	(c)	Lying in	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(d)	The Child	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Gas and Air Analgesia is available to every Expectant Mother who wishes to avail herself of this facility and it was used on 107 occasions. Pethedine was administered on 55 occasions on prescription by the Private Practitioner in charge of the case.

Every Domiciliary Midwife has the opportunity of referring her Expectant Mothers to the Ante-Natal Clinic for instruction in Relaxation Exercises and the extent to which this teaching appeals to the Mothers and gives good results at the confinement makes one believe that its value is not yet fully exploited professionally.

## HOME NURSING SERVICE

The total below gives the statistical details of the work carried out by the 15 Home Nurses in the area.

					Number of cases attended by Home Nurses during the year	Number of visits paid by Home Nurses during the year
(1)	Medical	...	...	...	959	21,217
(2)	Surgical	...	...	...	445	6,972
(3)	Infectious Diseases		...	...	1	15
(4)	Tuberculosis		...	...	14	747
(5)	Maternal complications			...	14	130
				Totals	1,433	29,081

Patients included in above who were aged 65 or over at the time of the first visit during the year     ...     ...     ...     ...	436	13,020
Children included in above who were under 5 years of age at the time of the first visit during the year     ...     ...     ...	135	1,309
Patients included in above who have had more than 24 visits during the year     ...	300	12,420

It will be appreciated in the light of development of modern medical treatment that much of the Home Nurses time is taken up by giving injections of one sort or another. This experience nationally was repeated on a lesser scale here and it is interesting to know that in addition to the visits recorded above 4,841 visits for injections were made.

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis Health Visitor is employed entirely on that work and gives three-quarters of whole time service to this Division. Mrs. Askam made 1,455 visits during the year.

The Chest Physicians tell me that 38 children in this area received B.C.G. Vaccination as known contacts of Tuberculosis during 1953.

37 Patients were receiving extra nourishment in the form of 2 pints of milk daily under the County Council Scheme on the 31st December, 1953.

## MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORK

Miss Glover had 75 cases under Legal or Voluntary Supervision on the 31st December, 1953, and Miss Leng the Occupational Therapist had 17 cases under her supervision including those who attended the Group Training in Tadcaster Clinic weekly.

## DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

It is gratifying to be able to Report that no case of Diphtheria was notified. Diphtheria Immunisation proceeds under the County Council's Scheme whereby any child can be immunised either by a Private Practitioner or Local Authority Medical Officer on request.

In accordance with the altered arrangements for submitting Annual Returns on Diphtheria Immunisation to the Ministry of Health in such a way as to indicate the number of children in the area who can be regarded as being currently immune to Diphtheria the following Return was submitted in respect of 1953.

	Age at 31-12-53 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1-4 1952-1949	5-9 1948-1944	10-14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)						
A.	1949-1953 ... ..	61	1,492	2,040	1,540	5,133
B.	1948 or earlier ...	—	—	556	661	1,217

It is of interest to record the following figures of Immunisations carried out during 1953.

	Age at final injection								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total	
1. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation (including temporary residents) ... ..	61	264	58	13	12	166	50	624	
2. Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e. subsequent to complete full course)						10	842	379	1231

Substantial as these figures are it is necessary to point out that only about two out of every five children born in the area are being immunised around the first birthday and one would impress on Parents the vital necessity of having this immunisation done if we are to continue to keep diphtheria at bay.

## WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION

The County Council's Scheme for vaccinating against Whooping Cough commenced in 1952 proceeded in 1953 and it is pleasing to Report that 329 children under the age of four years were submitted for this protection. As far as my records go there are now a total of 456 children in the area who have been vaccinated to date but it will need appreciable improvement on this figure before we can hope to reduce the number of cases notified each year.



## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

As a result of an outbreak of Smallpox in the West Riding of Yorkshire the following numbers of persons were vaccinated in this area during the year.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated ...	234	142	134	449	315	1,274
Number Re-vaccinated	—	1	24	283	820	1,128

It is interesting too to note that no cases of complications were reported.

## HOME HELP SERVICE

The number of cases supplied with a Home Help is as follows:—

1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	72
2. Chronic Sick, including aged and infirm ...	67
3. Others ... ..	27
	<hr/>
	166
	<hr/>

These cases received 27,543 hours' service.

As will be seen from the figures given above the Home Help Service continues to have increased calls made upon it. Recruitment of Home Helps has improved somewhat in some parts of the Division but for some unaccountable reason recruitment in the more populous parishes leaves much to be desired.

## WELFARE OF THE AGED

Activities of the Parish Welfare Committees in the area continue and it has been noteworthy that the idea of providing Chiropody Service under the auspices of such Committees has expanded. To date it has proved impossible to arrange for the provision of meals for Old People except in the one instance where the Local Parish Committee has made arrangements with a peripatetic Fish and Chip Proprietor for Old Folks to have such a meal at an advantageous price.

## CARE OF CHILDREN NEGLECTED OR ILL TREATED IN THEIR OWN HOMES

The Divisional Committee composed of Officers of interested Organisations continues to meet bi-monthly under the Chairmanship of the Divisional Medical Officer and although many of the cases discussed at the meetings are some of the worst problems in the area the continued good average attendance indicates that those taking part find benefit from the discussions.



# WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Engineer, Surveyor and Chief Sanitary Officer

For the Year 1953

Council Offices,  
WETHERBY.

August, 1954.

To the Rural District Council of Wetherby:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 8th Annual Report for consideration and am again glad to report that the year under review was one of steady progress.

The outstanding feature of the year was undoubtedly the successful development of the new borehole at Stockeld. This borehole has resulted in the elimination of a number of serious public health and water problems which have confronted the Council for many years. The enterprise of the Council in sinking this borehole, in view of disappointing earlier results, is to be commended.

It is also of interest to note that on the completion of the two major sewerage schemes now under construction, your Council will have virtually completed their proposals for the provision of sewage facilities to the whole of the rural district.

I again desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and unfailing support, to the staff of my department for their loyalty and co-operation, and to the Officers of the Council for their help on all occasions. Thanks are also due to the Officers of the various Public Authorities with which the work of the Department is associated.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MARRIOTT,

Chartered Municipal Engineer,  
M.Inst.Mun.E., A.M.P.T.I.,  
M.Inst.P.C., M.R.San.I., F.S.I.A.,  
ENGINEER & SURVEYOR &  
CHIEF SANITARY OFFICER.

# I. GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT, 1953

TOWNSHIP	Estimated extent (acres)				Population		Dwelling No. of	Rateable Value £	Produce of Penny Rate		SERVICES TO DWELLINGS						
	1951 (Census)		1953 (Est.)		£ s. d.				Water Supply		Sewerage		Closets				
	1	2	3	4	5	6			Public Supply	Private Piped Other	Public Sewer	Private Sept. Tk. Other	W.C.	E.C.			
Angram	521	54	54	18	201	16 0	18	—	—	18	—	—	7	11			
Bardsey-cum-Rigton	2752	1315	1323	462	8606	35 1 10	457	2	3	429	29	4	457	5			
Bilton-with-Bickerton	2299	372	375	104	1136	4 12 4	97	4	3	79	17	8	79	25			
Boston Spa	880	2401	2450	806	12628	50 9 8	804	—	2	794	7	5	783	23			
Bramham-cum-Oglethorpe	4112	1223	1230	346	4383	17 10 8	332	10	4	294	43	9	299	47			
Clifford	742	1010	1010	314	4247	17 1 0	310	2	2	297	13	4	288	26			
Collingham	2842	1295	1300	425	9014	37 1 9	410	15	0	403	22	—	419	6			
Deighton North	1475	93	93	33	567	2 4 3	30	3	—	28	5	—	29	4			
Harewood	8154	1126	1130	355	9186	36 17 6	320	21	14	235	88	32	272	83			
Hutton Wandesley	1233	101	98	29	679	2 13 11	28	1	—	27	2	—	25	4			
Kearby-with-Netherby	1422	125	125	47	723	2 17 1	44	2	1	—	34	13	31	16			
Keswick East	1290	621	620	205	3456	13 14 3	191	12	2	187	9	9	186	19			
Kirk Deighton	2276	440	459	121	2234	8 13 0	100	21	—	89	30	2	116	5			
Kirkby Overblow	2224	310	310	105	1549	6 1 10	98	7	—	71	27	7	87	18			
Long Marston	2350	291	304	92	1144	4 13 2	92	—	—	78	10	6	76	16			
Ribston Little	858	169	170	54	474	1 18 6	54	1	2	51	1	2	52	2			
Rigton	3058	363	365	126	1452	5 15 11	112	101	4	42	59	25	62	64			
Scarcroft	1073	449	459	151	3309	12 15 4	149	1	1	108	38	5	137	14			
Sicklinghall	1495	255	258	85	1223	4 19 9	70	15	—	61	21	3	60	25			
Spofforth	5468	810	822	263	4454	17 8 9	240	21	2	203	46	12	214	49			
Thornor	2461	1099	1100	384	6180	24 12 1	379	1	4	345	30	9	358	26			
Thorp Arch	1529	475	480	101	10353	41 11 7	100	—	1	83	7	11	80	21			
Tockwith	3188	547	555	185	4791	18 2 10	176	5	4	141	31	13	132	53			
Walton	1590	196	196	59	14086	56 9 3	57	1	1	50	7	2	38	21			
Weeton	1373	621	622	242	5035	20 9 0	235	6	1	227	14	1	232	10			
Wetherby	2460	4237	4275	1082	27955	109 7 11	1077	4	1	1055	25	2	1074	8			
Wighill	2247	229	230	62	1251	4 15 8	61	—	1	50	11	1	57	5			
Wilstrop	1080	56	51	12	141	10 9 9	11	1	—	—	5	7	3	9			
Wothersome	772	50	46	13	127	10 4	13	—	—	—	13	—	7	6			
	64424	20338	+20810	6281	140584	559 15 11	6062	166	53	5445	644	192	5660	621			

NOTE.—The whole district is served by the Public Cleansing Service of the Council.  
 \*\*Allocation of population to parishes is estimated.  
 +Registrar-General's Mid-1953 Estimate of Civilian Population.



## I. GENERAL

### a. General Statistics

Although the detailed census Report had not been published at the 31st December, 1952, it was issued before this report was dictated and therefore as the census figures are of considerable interest, I have made brief reference thereto in my report.

Between the census of 1931 and that of 1951 there has been an increase of 24.5% in the population of your district (attributable as to 7.1% to births and 17.4% to immigration into the district).

Your district is the fourth highest of the 21 rural districts in the West Riding in its intercensal increase in population and eighth highest amongst all types (100) local authorities in the County.

The development of environmental health services in your district at the year end 1953 is as follows:

	No. of Houses	Per Cent. of Total	Increase 1953
Water from public main ... ..	6062	96.5	179
Piped water supply (including private sources) ... ..	6228	99.1	183
Connected to public sewers ... ..	5445	86.6	151
Satisfactory drainage to public sewers or private sewage disposal schemes ... ..	6089	96.9	182
Water closets ... ..	5660	90.2	228
Earth Closets ... ..	621	9.8	68 dec.
Baths and hot water supply ... ..	4611	73.4	261

There are now 53 houses which have not a piped supply of water from either public or private sources, but 219 houses still obtain their water from private wells and boreholes. It is estimated that approximately 450 earth closets are still capable of conversion under statutory powers. The related census figures are as follows:—

Arrangement	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS						
	Wetherby R.D.			21 R.D.s %	Municipal Boroughs & U.D.s %	County Boroughs %	W.R. County Area %
	Shared (S)	Without (N)	S & N %				
Piped Water	311	212	9	12	8	9	9
Cooking Stove	91	64	3	4	4	6	4
Sink	104	97	3	6	3	5	4
Water Closet	267	877	20	24	22	21	22
Fixed Bath	111	1578	29	38	44	42	43
Having exclu- sive use of all five arrange- ments	—	—	% 66	% 57	% 53	% 54	% 54

Amongst 21 rural districts, your Council has the third highest percentage of dwellings having exclusive use of all five arrangements.

#### **b. Legislation**

The adoptive sections of the West Riding General Powers' Act, 1951, apply to your district as from the 1st July, 1953. No major item of legislation has been placed on the statute book during the year, but the Council have adopted Byelaws under Section 17 of the Water Act, 1945, for preventing waste, undue consumption of water, etc., and these came into operation from the 1st August, 1953. Towards the year end, detailed consideration was being given to the revision of the Building Byelaws.

#### **c. Staff and Organisation**

There has been no change during the year and I am happy to report that the considerable amount of work accomplished during the year could not have been done without the very loyal team work of the whole of the Staff.

#### **d. Manual Workers**

Thirty-five workmen are employed in the Department and the records of sickness for the year ending 31st March, 1954, show that 501 man-days were lost due to illness; this averages approximately 14 days per man.

Careful scrutiny is made of all absences due to illnesses, and your Committee receive a monthly report on the position. 17 men had no absence due to illness, but 9 men were away more than 30 days each, and the longest total period of absence was 59 days. Although the incidence of illness during the year under review was heavier than formerly, I am confident that the sickness scheme has not been abused and is, in fact, valued and respected by the majority of the Council's employees.

Work on the approved Depot accommodation was in hand at the year end and should be completed towards the middle of 1954.

## **II. TOWN PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL**

#### **a. General**

With the relaxation in licencing control, work under this heading continues to increase and has now reached pre-war levels. The reduction in work relating to building licencing has been considerably offset by the increase of work under general building and planning control.



## b. Control of Building and Development

The following table gives details of Byelaw and Planning applications, received and dealt with:

	PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
	Construction	Change of use	Advts.	Building Byelaws
Brought forward from 1952	7	1	4	9
Received 1953 ... ..	208	25	17	312
	215	26	21	321
Approved ... ..	104	10	7	272
Conditionally approved ...	82	5	9	—
Temporary Buildings ... ..	5	—	—	36
Refused ... ..	18	6	4	1
Withdrawn ... ..	3	3	1	4
	212	24	21	313
Outstanding 31.12.53 ... ..	8	2	—	8
	215	26	21	321

10 enforcement notices under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, have been served and 2 cases were outstanding at the year end; in one case there was a successful prosecution for the use of premises as a shop contrary to an enforcement notice.

## c. Industrial Area, Wetherby

During the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have confirmed the Wetherby (Compulsory Purchase) Order No. 4, and your Council are now in a position to take possession of the site at short notice. Detailed plans for the development of the site are now in course of preparation.

## d. Vehicular Parking—Wetherby

The new car park in Hallfield Lane has been a considerable boon to the traffic frequenting the town, as is indicated by the satisfactory financial position. At the year end your Committee had under consideration the provision of public conveniences on the site. A scheme was also in preparation for the repair of the Victoria Street Car Park.

## e. Tree Preservation Order

The Wetherby (Rural) Tree Preservation Order (No. 1), 1952, was confirmed during the year. This Order covers the township of Wetherby. Work on the preparation of submission of further Orders has, of necessity, been suspended, due to the pressure of other work.

f. **Building Byelaws**

As already indicated, your Council had under consideration at the year end the revision of the Building Byelaws and it is anticipated that the new byelaws will be in operation by mid-1954.

g. **Building Licensing**

There has been a further welcome relaxation in licensing arrangements during the year. The free limit for housing work was raised to £500 and the licensing quota or ceiling was removed completely. Towards the end of the year, further considerable relaxations in licensing were announced to be effective as from the 1st January, 1954.

**New House Licensing**

The position is as follows:

**Year ending 31st December, 1952**

Under construction	...	...	...	...	53	
Licences allocated	...	...	...	...	117	
					—	170

**1953**

Licences allocated by Council	...	...			72	
Licences allocated by Min. of Works					3	
Authorised under subsidy	...	...			Nil	
					—	75
						— 245
Completed during 1953	...	...	...		44	
Licences withdrawn or lapsed			...		2	
Under construction at year end	...				82	
Licenses allocated but works not started	...	...	...	...	41	
					—	169
Licences allocated and still to take up at 31st December, 1953	...				76	
					—	76
						— 245

**III. HOUSING**

a. **Housing Progress**

The general overall progress during the year has been good, as is indicated in the accompanying table.

# HOUSE CONSTRUCTION AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953

Parish	Completed		Under Construction		Tender or Licence		Total	
	Private Trad. Convers.	Council Trad.	Private Trad. Convers.	Council Trad.	Private	Council	Private	Council
Bardsey	11	4	10	14	—	—	21	18
Boston Spa	—	45	1	31*	—	—	1	76*
Bilton	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
Bramham	—	4	2	18	—	—	3	22
Clifford	—	4	2	—	—	10	3	14
Collingham	7	—	18	13	3	—	28	13
Deighton North	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—
Harewood	4	—	2	—	4	13	10	13
Hutton Wandesley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keswick East	—	—	3	8	1	—	4	8
Kirk Deighton	2	6	—	4	6	2	8	12
Kirkby Overblow	2	—	1	—	—	—	4	—
Long Marston	5	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
North Rigton	1	—	2	—	1	—	4	—
Ribston Little	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sicklinghall	—	2†	—	—	—	—	—	2†
Spofforth	—	6	1	12	—	—	1	18
Scarcroft	5	4	10	—	1	—	21	4
Thornor	1	—	3	4	—	16	4	20
Thorp Arch	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tockwith	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Wetherby	4	59	28.	48	23	47*	64	154*§
Wighill	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Weeton	2	6	—	8	—	—	2	14
Walton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	44	142	82	160*	41	90*	192	392†‡§
	57		94		131*		584†	
		142		160*				

Licences Allocated (Parish Unknown) — 76.

\* 2 shops in addition.

† 4 shops in addition.

‡ 2 “Airey” Houses.

§ Includes 16 “Airey” Flats.



The Ministry of Housing and Local Government were compelled to cut down the Council's building allocation in order to ensure that Local Authorities who had not made the same progress as your authority, should be permitted to do so and in order that the 300,000 houses per annum target fixed by the Government should not be exceeded.

In July, 1953, therefore, the Council were given a quota of 80 houses to be erected on the understanding that not more than 20 of the said 80 houses would be commenced before the year end.

The policy of the Government being unchanged towards December, the Regional Officer of the Ministry allocated a further 56 houses to be built in 1954. At the year end the position was as follows:—

In course of erection ... ..	160
In approved tenders ... ..	39
Approved to go out to Tender ... ..	51

During the year, the Council on several occasions expressed their concern at the high cost of houses and their anxiety that they should not 'over build.' It is obvious that this aspect of the housing programme must now be increasingly considered.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government annuoned in November in a White Paper entitled "Houses the Next Step" the policy of the Government for future action in respect of housing and outlined prospective legislation. The new legislation proposes changes in relation to housing repairs and rents and is intended to focus attention on existing houses in particular (in connection with slum clearance, repairs, improvements and conversions). As a result of this, it will be necessary during the ensuing year to complete the detailed report on the housing conditions in your district.

The Yorkshire Branch of the Rural District Councils' Association have had discussions with the West Riding County Council relative to the standards of road construction and with the consent of the Council, I have been requested to consult with the County Engineer & Surveyor on technical questions relating to a modification of the present high standards. Some concession regarding the use of alternative materials have been obtained from the County Surveyor, but as discussions on a national level are now taking place regarding this subject, the County Council are not prepared to seriously modify their road specifications.

The following table gives details of the housing progress to date since the end of the 1939/45 war; the capital assets of the Council in respect of housing at the end of the Financial year were £1,569,082 18s. 6d. The Council now own 1,309 houses and have sold 33 houses to tenants.

Completed since end of war:—

							End 1952	End 1953
<b>Private</b>	New Houses—Traditional	...	...				106	150
	do. Prefabricated	...	...				2	2
	Conversions	...	...	...	...		110	123
							—	—
							218	275
<b>Council</b>	New Houses—Traditional	...	...				239	363
	do. Prefabricated	...	...				228	246
	Conversions	...	...	...	...		59	59
							—	—
							526	668
							—	—
						TOTAL	...	744 943
	Demolished or Closed	...	...	...			69	100
	Nett increase						675	843
Under construction at year end:—								
<b>Private</b>	All types	...	...	...	...	...	59	94
<b>Council</b>	All types	...	...	...	...	...	213	160
							—	—
							272	254
							—	—

b. Existing Houses

Repair

I have already briefly indicated that legislation is now proposed during the ensuing year to enable work under this heading to be accelerated, and it is interesting to note that in this proposed legislation some form of rent increase is proposed; but whether the proposals envisaged will be adequate or sufficient, is a matter of conjecture. The problem, however, of the steady deterioration of property due to the financial inability of many Owners to maintain the same still continues and at the same time there is a growing public consciousness and demand for increased standards of housing. The repair and reconditioning of old houses is a difficult problem and the best results are not achieved by resources to legal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts, but rather by informal

discussions with the owners of property in respect of essential repairs.

A start has been made on the tabulation of the Housing Rural Survey and it has been found that owing to developments which have taken place since the original inspection a substantial amount of re-checking and re-inspection is necessary. This clearly indicates to me that although it is now essential that a complete report of the housing conditions of your district should be presented to the Council at an early date owing to the rapid change in housing conditions, data so submitted, can within a very short time, become completely out of date.

During the year it has been possible to recondition 35 houses and as a result of this work 19 have been upgraded from the Demolition Class. 212 houses have had repairs carried out under the provision of the Public Health Act. 18 representations have been submitted to your Council relating to unfitness of dwellings, and 8 houses have been demolished and 7 closed. In 16 cases houses have been converted to non-domestic use. Demolition Orders have been issued in a further 6 cases and voluntary closure agreed on vacation in 6 cases. 8 families have been rehoused from unfit houses.

**c. Overcrowding**

It has again been necessary to investigate a number of cases of alleged overcrowding, but in no case was statutory overcrowding discovered. The recent census figures contain information relating to the occupancy of dwellings in your district and the appended information as extracted from the census report gives a clear indication of housing circumstances in your area.

**SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS**

Persons						No.
1	...	...	...	...	...	559
2	...	...	...	...	...	1636
3	...	...	...	...	...	1489
4	...	...	...	...	...	1070
5	...	...	...	...	...	561
6	...	...	...	...	...	272
7	...	...	...	...	...	122
8	...	...	...	...	...	51
9	...	...	...	...	...	22
10	or more	...	...	...	...	22



The census report states that the percentage of your population living at a higher density of more than two persons per room, is 0.8% and the distribution of this is confined to 8 parishes where the percentage population of those parishes so living varies between 0.5% at Wetherby to 18% at Angram. Your Council is the lowest but three of the 21 rural districts in the County in the percentage of population living at more than two persons per room. The average figure for the 21 rural districts in the West Riding is 2.4% and for the whole of the West Riding area, including county boroughs, 2.5%

From statistics in various tables in the census report it is shown that at the date of the census there were 34 cases of statutory overcrowding and a further 132 cases would be overcrowded on a bedroom standard. There were 118 shared households in the district. From these figures, however, it is possible that overcrowding in a number of shared households would arise having regard not to the house as a whole, but to the part of the house occupied by respective families.

### OCCUPATION OF DWELLINGS—CENSUS 1951

#### Size in Number of Rooms

Occupied by	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 or 9	10 or more	Total	No. of Rooms
1 household.	8	165	749	1367	2016	674	361	266	89	5695	28077
2 household.				8	10	8	8	8	6	48	318
3 or more.							1	1	2	4	39
	8	165	749	1375	2026	682	370	275	97	5747	28434
Vacant.	2	17	55	51	61	29	12	7	4	238	1091
Total	10	182	804	1426	2087	711	382	282	101	5985	29525
Miscellaneous habitations includes six caravans comprising 11 rooms										32	
										6017	

### IV. DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL

#### a. Drainage and Sanitary Conveniences

The connection of houses to the various sewage schemes has envisaged attention during the year and a number of properties have been connected to the sewers which have been a problem for many years. 24 new septic tanks have been installed to premises which previously had unsatisfactory drainage direct to ditches, streams or land, which further reduces to less than 200 the number of houses with drainage unsuitable for water carriage sanitation.

57 houses have been completely redrained, 77 earth closets converted into water closets. The total grants paid by the Council during the year for earth closet conversion amounts to £652 3s. 9d., and in respect of 29 conversions being completed, at £22 9s. 9d. per convenience.

Parish Councils in various parts of the district, and in particular Thorner and Bramham, are pressing for the rapid abolition of all remaining earth closets. In view, however, of the financial position, it is not possible to deal with more than approximately 40 conversions per year under the present grant arrangements.

#### **b. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal (existing)**

The new sewage disposal works continue to give satisfaction, although certain operational problems of sewage treatment have arisen during the year, notably at Crimble Beck and at Long Marston.

In the case of Long Marston the problem is associated with the septic condition of the sewage reaching the sewage works from pumping mains. At Crimble Beck, the problem appears to be due to the use of detergents. Lengthy discussions and consultations have taken place with the Officers of the Yorkshire Rivers Board, to whom I am exceedingly grateful for their assistance and help at all times. The condition of the older works which I have repeatedly mentioned is exceedingly bad, but in view of schemes now under construction, all the old works with the exception of Wighill will be discontinued in the foreseeable future. At Wetherby joint works the replacement of the filtering media to two percolating filters has commenced, but the scheme had to be revised, as it was found on removing the top media that the whole of the media to the filters required replacement. The estimated present cost is £3,230 0s. 0d.

Sewers in your area are inspected at regular intervals and treated for rodent infestation. There are several known points where difficulties arise from time to time and these are given special attention.

No serious difficulties have arisen with the exception of the stream syphon at Sicklinghall, which is a constant worry in times of excessive rainfall or storm.

There have been 43 cases of blocked sewers dealt with during the year and four defective sewers have been found.



### **c. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal—Post-War Schemes**

1953 has seen the commencement of the carrying out of the long-planned sewerage proposals for the Western Area of the Council's district in the parishes of Weeton, Rigton, Harewood, Kearby and Kirkby Overblow, and the Thorp Arch and district scheme, which will enable obsolete sewage works serving Thorner, Boston Spa, Bramham and Clifford and Thorp Arch to be abolished, and will deal with sewage in excess of which the Wetherby works are incapable of treating; it is regretted that the parishes of Wighill and Walton have been for the time being excluded from this scheme.

On the completion of the schemes now under construction, approximately 93% of all properties in the district will be drained to public sewers and sewage disposal will be carried out at seven modern sewage works; with the exception of the parishes of Wighill and Walton, the major work of sewerage the Wetherby Rural District will then have been accomplished.

### **d, Financial Statement, year ending 31st March, 1954**

The total cost of the service for the year ending 31st March, 1954, was £11,657 14s. 4d.; the income was £1,941 2s. 5d., leaving a deficiency of £9,716 11s. 11d. to be borne by the General Rate Fund.

Loan Charges amounted to £7,033 12s. 1d.

The capital assets of the Council in respect of sewerage amount to £113,044 10s. 11d.

## **V. WATER SUPPLY**

### **a. Private Supplies**

158 samples of water have been collected for bacteriological analysis, and of these, 63 were found to be unsatisfactory and 25 of doubtful purity. As the result of these unsatisfactory and doubtful samples, considerable work has arisen in securing the improvement of unsatisfactory supplies or their abolition; and a further 31 houses have been connected to piped supplies during the year in lieu of wells and springs. At the year end 219 houses obtained their water from private wells and borehole, and of this number, only 53 had no water piped into the house. The Council had under consideration at the year end the problem of water supply to three groups of property situate at Kirkby Overblow, East Keswick and Sicklinghall, where the existing supplies are either inadequate in quantity or unsatisfactory in quality.



# WATER CONSUMPTION

QUANTITY SUPPLIED	YEAR 1951/52			YEAR 1952/53			YEAR 1953/54		
	GALLONS			GALLONS			GALLONS		
	Annual Total	Average Diurnal Total		Annual Total	Average Diurnal Total		Annual Total	Average Diurnal Total	
Domestic	177,267,202	485,000		172,861,650	468,000		179,688,864	492,298	
Metered	38,731,000	105,000		44,253,000	122,000		43,129,000	118,161	
Total	215,998,202	590,000		217,014,650	590,000		222,817,864	610,459	
QUANTITY SUPPLIED PER DAY	Gallons per Person	Gallons per House		Gallons per Person	Gallons per House		Gallons per Person	Gallons per House	
	28.4	98.8		26.8	90.0		27.3	93.8	
	6.3	21.2		7.2	26.0		6.2	22.5	
TOTAL	34.7	120.0		34.0	116.0		33.5	116.3	

WATER SUPPLIES

PARISH			PUBLIC SUPPLIES						TOTAL		PRIVATE SUPPLIES	
Name	Area	1953 Pop.	Hses.	Harrogate Corp. Hses. Pop. Meters	Leeds Corp. Hses. Pop. Meters	Wetherby R.D.C. Hses. Pop. Meters	Miscellaneous Hses. Pop. Meters	Hses. Pop. Meters	Pop. Meters	Hses. Piped	Hses. not Piped	
Angram	521	54	18			54	1	18	70	1	—	
Bardsey-cumRigton	2752	1323	462			308	48	457	1308	48	3	
Bilton-with-Bickerton	2299	375	104			358	20	97	358	20	3	
Boston Spa	880	2450	806			1996	37	653	2446	38	2	
Bramham	4112	1230	346			1190	30	*151	1190	30	4	
Clifford	742	1010	314			1000	25	332	1000	25	2	
Collingham	2842	1300	425			1255	44	410	1255	44	—	
Deighton North	1475	93	33			84	12	30	84	12	—	
Harewood	8154	1130	355		94	160	4	320	1037	19	14	
Hutton Wandesley	1233	98	29			92	1	* 1	95	11	—	
Kearby-with-Netherby	1422	125	47			118	24	44	118	24	1	
Keswick East	1290	620	205			590	16	191	590	16	2	
Kirk Deighton	2276	459	121			399	15	100	399	15	—	
Kirkby Overblow	2224	310	405	96	310	6	1	98	316	10	—	
Long Marston	2850	305	92			301	37	92	304	38	—	
Ribston Little	858	170	54			162	6	51	162	6	—	
Rigton	3058	365	126			287	36	112	325	38	2	
Seacroft	1073	459	151	3	9	455	30	149	455	30	4	
Sicklinghall	1495	258	85			200	21	70	200	21	1	
Spofforth	5468	822	263	17	56	702	32	240	758	36	—	
Thorner	2461	1100	384			1085	38	369	1085	38	2	
Thorp Arch	1529	480	101			402	10	100	477	11	4	
Tockwith	3188	555	185			530	38	176	530	38	1	
Walton	1590	196	59			187	11	57	193	12	4	
Weeton	1373	622	242		235	—	1	235	629	3	1	
Wetherby	2460	4275	1082		629	4220	104	1077	4260	105	1	
Wighill	2247	230	62			224	26	61	227	27	1	
Wilstrop	1080	51	12			48	9	11	48	9	—	
Wothersome	772	46	13			46	4	13	46	4	—	
	64424	20810	6281	116	375	13		379	20147	727	166	
				338	953	7	11	6062	20147	727	53	
				Nidderdale R.D.C.				3	28	3	—	
				**Tadcaster R.D.C.				7	28	3	—	
				/ do				5	24	2	—	
				5244	17729	705		6077	20217	735	—	

\* Royal Ordnance Factory Supply in detail by the Ministry of Supply.  
§ 2 Naval Training Stations supply in detail by the Ministry of Supply.

† Lascelles Estate Supply in detail.  
\*\*Bulk Supply for Parish of Healaugh.  
/ Direct Supply for Parish of Barwick.

**b. Public Supplies—General**

The accompanying table gives full details of water supplies within your district. The routine analysis of public supplies at fortnightly intervals has been carried out and 167 samples have been submitted for analysis. Of this number, only one sample was unsatisfactory, although 21 were doubtful. 17 samples of water have been sent for chemical and mineralogical analysis and the following table gives details of the hardness of the public supplies in your area:—

Supply	Parts per Million		Parts per 70,000 (Clarks Scale)	
R.O.F. ... ..	390	(388)	27½	(27½)
Stockeld ... ..	180	(180)	12	(12)
Low Level (Bardsey)	206	(260)	15	(18½)
Eastern Area ... ..	330	(340)	23.2	(24)
North Ripton ... ..	51	—	3.6	—
High Level (Leeds) ...	100	(100)	7	(7)

**c. Public Supplies, Wetherby R.D.C.**

**(i) General**

The year has been one of steady progress without spectacular development, although the purchase of the Wetherby District Water Co. has now been completed.

**(ii) Water Production and Consumption**

Water is now supplied in detail to the whole of the rural district with the exception of the parishes of Kirkby Overblow, Weeton and Harewood, and it is estimated that a total of approximately 18,000 people are now supplied with water from Council sources. The attached table gives details of the total quantity of water distributed during the last 3 years.

As the result of the productivity of Stockeld borehole, it has been possible to reduce the purchase of water by 16,000,000 gallons and increase the quantity produced from the Council's own sources by 22,000,000 gallons. This improvement only took place towards the close of the year and the ensuing year should see a very satisfactory position in this respect.

The water consumption is now 33.91 gallons per day per person (including supplies by meter), as compared with 39 gallons per person per day for the year 1950/51, and in this period of 3 years there has been an increase in metered supplies of 10 million gallons per annum.

The Council are supplying approximately 16% more population than they did 4 years ago, with approximately the same quantity of water. The rate of output from the various boreholes has likewise been an improvement in the current year by almost 30% and the Council have now satisfactory reserves



of water for the immediate future, but I am concerned regarding the incidence of low winter rainfalls which have now occurred for three successive winters. The winter rainfall is the only source of replenishment of the underground water-bearing strata, and without an adequate rainfall, depletion of the underground supplies must inevitably occur. The winter rainfall for the 6 months, October, 1953, to the end of March, 1954, was 10.07 inches, compared with the 35-year average for your district of 18 inches.

Your Council are indebted to the University of Leeds for their ready agreement to supply me with detailed monthly rainfall statistics recorded at their weather station at Bramham.

### **(iii) Development of Water Undertaking**

#### **1. General**

The principal work during the year has been the carrying out of essential repairs and renewals to apparatus, pumping stations and reservoirs, and the installation of hydrants and valves to water mains. The most interesting development was the bringing into use of the new borehole at Stockeld. This borehole has been gradually developed and at the year end was producing at the rate of 10,500 gallons per hour. From the commencement of pumping to the year end 39 million gallons of water have been produced in a period of 4,943 pumping hours.

#### **2. New Stockeld Borehole**

The Stockeld water is now being supplied to seven villages, including a large part of the parish of Wetherby, and has enabled water from Bardsey (which was previously being supplied to Wetherby) to be diverted to supply Boston Spa, Bramham and Clifford.

The long-standing problem of supply at Sicklinghall has now been overcome and the Sicklinghall Pumping Station is now retained on a care and maintenance basis (purely for emergency operation in the case of a breakdown at Stockeld Pumping Station). It was possible, therefore, to discontinue the purchase of water from the Royal Ordnance Factory at Boston Spa, and at Wetherby, water from the Ministry of Supply is purchased only for the purpose of supplying 3 parishes,

An indirect advantage of the use of the Stockeld borehole has been to eliminate the long-standing problem of inadequate water pressures in the high level areas of Wetherby and Kirk Deighton.

### **3. Kearby High Level Area**

Consequent on the abolition of the Sicklinghall boreholes in regular use, an opportunity was taken of installing an automatic control between the Barrowby (high level) Reservoir and Sicklinghall Reservoir, and in order to provide a safeguard against breakdown of pumping plant, an alarm indicator is to be installed in the Pumping Attendant's home to indicate at all times the level of the Sicklinghall reservoir.

### **4. Hydrants and Valves**

Work on the installation of hydrants and valves has proceeded smoothly, and during the year 124 hydrants and valves have been installed in various mains throughout the district, leaving a balance of approximately 100 fittings to be installed during the ensuing year.

### **5. Bramham High Level Area**

In view of the serious difficulties of maintaining a supply in the high level area of Bramham, your Council purchased from a private owner one mile of 2in. diameter main, which enabled a connection to be made between the Wothersome supply and Bramham village, and by the carrying out of certain water main interlinkages in the village of Bramham, water at a very much higher pressure was supplied to the high level properties.

This interlinkage, however, must be regarded as a temporary solution pending the completion of water main duplication at Clifford, which will ensure a satisfactory supply to Bramham. The high level interlinkage will then provide an alternative supply for this part of your district. Your Council have approved a scheme for the duplication of water mains between Boston Spa and Clifford, designed to overcome difficulties of distribution and marked reduction in pressure in the mains at Clifford and Bramham at times of peak consumption. The West Riding County Council Fire Service have agreed to make a contribution of £1,227 towards the cost of this scheme, which is estimated to cost £3,503.

### **6. Thorner Area**

For very many years, the water supply to the high level district of Thorner has been of an intermittent type, with failure of supply during peak periods of flow, and in view of building developments taking their supply from this distribution district, the conditions have gradually worsened. Accordingly a scheme has been prepared for the duplication of the water main between Scarcroft and Thorner, and this scheme,



estimated to cost £3,114, was submitted to the County Fire Service, who have agreed to contribute £350 towards the cost of the scheme. Tenders have been invited for the work and a contract was under consideration at the year end.

**7. Water Towers**

Consideration was given to the condition of the water towers, particularly at Bramham Park and Kirk Deighton, and schemes for the repair and reconditioning of these towers were in preparation at the year end. In the case of Wetherby water tower (in view of the coming into use of the Stockeld supply), it is doubtful whether this tower will be needed for operation purposes, except in the case of a breakdown at the pumping station, and the future use of this tower will require consideration of the Committee at an early stage, in view of its unsatisfactory condition.

**8. Water Mains**

A considerable amount of work has been carried out to water mains additional to the installation of hydrants and valves. Principally, the relaying of inadequate sized pipes with 3in. diameter mains, the interlinkage of mains to provide ring circuits and the extension of water mains on Council housing estates. All this work, consisting of numerous small schemes, has been carried out and there has been a welcome local improvement in water supply on completion of each of the schemes. Approximately one mile of 3in. water main has been laid during the year for these purposes.

**9. Defective Fittings**

During the year the following defects have occurred :—

Water main fractures	... ..	22
Defective communication pipes renewed	...	87
Defective service pipes	... ..	73
Other defective fittings	.....	213

The average cost of repair of communication pipes was £9 17s. 6d.

1,247 taps have been re-washed at 574 premises.

**10. New Connections**

There have been 238 new connections, and these include 136 new Council houses, 46 new private houses, 19 existing houses not previously supplied, 12 farms and farm houses not previously supplied, 16 cattle troughs, and 19 other premises.

In addition, 51 building water supplies were given by meter and 45 at a flat rate charge. 87 additional W.C.s, 53 baths and 63 hot water systems have been installed in existing houses.



## **11. Complaints**

There were a total of 76 complaints during the year compared with 55 in the previous year, but of this number, 20 consisted of a series of complaints due to failure of supply as a result of fractured mains or breakdowns at pumping stations. There were 7 major failures of supply during the year, 3 of which were the result of fractured mains and 2 as the result of a failure of pumping plant.

The remaining complaints were 26 in respect of dirty water, 15 in respect of inadequate pressures of water, and 15 miscellaneous complaints.

## **12. Financial Details**

Expenditure was £42,330 16s. 11d. and income £30,388 19s. 1d., leaving a deficit on Revenue Account of £11,941 7s. 4d., to be paid out of the general rates.

## **13. Outstanding Problems**

Your Committee have given consideration to certain outstanding problems, which include the provision of further sources of water for your area, the softening of water, the provision of water supplies to the very few parts of your area at present unserved and at Rigton, improvement of the supply to ensure an adequate flow of water from the Harrogate mains to the storage reservoir.

### **d. Public Supplies—Leeds Corporation and Lascelles Estate**

Your Council have, for a number of years, been exceedingly concerned regarding the very unsatisfactory quality of water supplied by the Lascelles Estate to consumers in Harewood.

The statutory rights of supply of this area are vested in the Corporation of Leeds, and your Council have had voluminous correspondence with the corporation with a view to the provision of a satisfactory supply.

Various schemes have been submitted by Leeds Corporation, all of which have been relatively costly, and in view of the fact that Leeds would require a guaranteed income under the provisions of the Water Act, before proceeding with any scheme, no very marked progress has been made, as your Council consider that the guarantee would involve the general Ratepayers of the district with an undue burden in view of the costliness of the scheme suggested.

From a Public Health point of view, the situation is exceedingly unsatisfactory, and appears to be one of the most recalcitrant problems with which your Council are concerned at the present time.

The majority of unsatisfactory samples collected from public supplies to which reference has been made, have been collected from the Lascelles Estate water supply. It is hoped that the ensuing year will see marked progress towards the solution of this grave problem.

## **VI. PUBLIC CLEANSING, TRANSPORT & SALVAGE**

### **a. Development of Service**

There has been no special item to report under this heading during the year, although it is becoming increasingly evident that with the continued increase in the number of properties to be served in your area, that there is not the same flexibility in meeting increased demands on the service as there was formerly, and this is particularly apparent immediately after Bank Holidays, when the making-up of lost collection is almost impossible.

There have been, during the year, rather more complaints than one expects as a result principally of the departure from collection at regular days. In order to ensure no loss of collection time, each collection district is now worked strictly on a "round book" basis, and in consequence, if the collection task is lighter or heavier owing to various circumstances, the time of collection will be a little earlier or later. In addition, there is an increasing number of requests from residents within your district for a more frequent service than it is possible to give at the present time.

Most of the difficulties of collection arise between April and October, when during this period the bulk of refuse is greater and there is an increasing tendency of the public to use the dustbin for garden refuse and non-domestic refuse, and associated with this is the low ash content in the refuse which makes work of disposal more costly and difficult. There is also less refuse disposed of privately by householders either by burning or otherwise. The incidence of holidays and Bank Holidays reduces the labour available and it is now virtually impossible to obtain additional casual labour for the service whilst the filling of normal vacancies has become a serious problem.

### **b. Transport**

During the year your Committee set up a Transport and Depot Sub-Committee, and this Committee has been of advantage in ensuring regular consideration to various items concerned with the maintenance of plant.



During the year your Council have taken delivery of two new S & D 18 cub. yd. refuse vehicles and have disposed of the 2 Scammel 6 cub. yd. refuse vehicles. All the vehicles, with the exception of the Ford van and one motor cycle, are in good repair and should give efficient service during the next few years without undue expenditure.

### **c. Refuse Disposal**

The Council have now in use 7 tips, with one tipping site held in reserve. Towards the close of the year there was a Ministry Inquiry into your application for the acquisition of a large sand and gravel quarry at Bramham for refuse tipping, and at the year end the decision of the Minister was awaited.

The Mechanical Loading Shovel has continued to give excellent service, and the experience of the Council in utilising this equipment has evoked considerable interest amongst Local Authorities over a wide area, and there have been a number of visits from outside authorities to inspect the machine under working conditions.

From the data to which I refer under the next heading, it is calculated that 31,000 cu. yds. of refuse are collected each year, and the disposal of this quantity of refuse requires  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land at an average depth of fill of 6ft.

### **d. Collection**

The Ministry of Housing & Local Government have again resumed their publication of public cleansing costing returns obtained from large urban areas in the country, and it is interesting to note that on the basis of weight of refuse taken from actual weighings of refuse during 1953, 4,222 tons of refuse was removed by your Council from 8,282 premises.

Analysis of these figures reveals that on the average 200 premises are visited and 318 receptacles collected each working day by each vehicle and 120 receptacles are collected per working day by each loader.

I estimate that each loader, therefore, carries in the aggregate 4 tons per day a distance of approximately 4 miles. The total quantity of refuse removed per working day is 16.4 tons; the weight averages 2 tons per load and therefore each vehicle collects a little over 2 loads per day.



e. **Financial and General Statement**

The total cost of the service for the year, including provision of dustbins and cesspit emptying is £12,876 17s. 7d., of which sum £6,798 19s. 1d. was the cost of labour and £4,775 5s. 11d. the cost of vehicles. £1,844 was the cost of refuse disposal.

*Mileage of motor vehicles ... ..	32,251
*Petrol used (in gallons) ... ..	5,573
Premises visited ... ..	215,396
Bins emptied ... ..	332,664
Middens cleansed ... ..	3,627
Pail closets emptied ... ..	8,947
Loads removed ... ..	2,328
Cesspool and septic tank emptied ... ..	970
Loads from cesspools ... ..	866

\* These figures include collection of salvage.

The following table indicates, for comparative purposes, the costs of your Council during the preceding year in relation to figures taken from the national costing returns.

**Public Cleansing Costs**

Large Urban Areas (under 30,000 population)							Wetherby R.D.		
	Ton	1937/38		Ton	1952/53		Ton	1952/53	
		Cost	Per		Cost	Per		Cost	Per
		1000	1000		1000	1000		1000	1000
		Pop.	Premises		Pop.	Premises		Pop.	Premises
Collection	14/6	£129	£497 ...	35/4	£416	£1367 ...	37/-	£421	£1120
Disposal	6/1	£39	£159 ...	12/6	£53	£213 ...	12/-	£75	£200
TOTAL	20/7	£168	£656 ...	47/10	£469	£1580 ...	49/-	£496	£1320

f. **Salvage**

Financial details in respect of this service are as follows:—

Salvage Sales ... ..	£1008- 1-7
Expenditure, including salvage bonus	£940- 6-5

Balance to rate fund ... ..	£67-13-2
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There was a steady demand during the year for some forms of salvage, particularly waste paper and rags, and as the Council had the vision to provide a guaranteed outlet for salvage by a long-term contract, the problem of being able to dispose of your collections did not arise, although, of necessity, a temporary restrictive quota of deliveries to the paper mills was in operation for the first nine months of the year. By the end of the year the paper mills were, however, again anxious to take more paper.

It has been suggested that the recovery of salvage materials should be discontinued, but in view of the large quantity of paper which is sold and which would otherwise find its way into the tips, the salvage of this commodity is in my view a most satisfactory method of refuse disposal.

### g. Dustbin Provision Scheme

This scheme has worked well. 446 dustbins were issued during the year and 19 were sold. In this connection I have received many enquiries from other Local Authorities regarding the experience of your Council under this scheme.

## VII. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES

A large variety of complaints were investigated and varied from bad housing conditions to offensive nuisances, and the appendix to this report gives details of the work carried out. It is noteworthy that most of the work was done as a result of informal notices and consultations with owners and occupiers. This work is important, and although not spectacular, demands a considerable amount of time from your Officers. Details of statutory notices are appended; five of the notices were abated by the Council on behalf of or in default of owners.

### Statutory Notices

	Statute	Out-standing 31-12-52	Issued 1953	Abated 1953	Out-standing 31-12-53
Sect. 39	Drainage ... ..	0	4	0	4
„ 44	Provision of W.C. ... ..	3	6	3	6
„ 45	Defective W.C. ... ..	—	2	1	1
„ 47	W.C. Conversion ... ..	17	18	19	16
„ 53	Temporary Buildings ... ..	1	—	—	1
„ 89	W.C. Provision—Inns ... ..	—	1	0	1
„ 93	Nuisances ... ..	3	1	1	3
„ 138	Water Supply ... ..	9	2	7	4
<b>Housing Act, 1936</b>					
Sect. 11	... ..	6	5	7	4
		39	39	38	40

## VIII. SUPERVISION OF WORKPLACES

### a. Factories Act, 1937

The following is a summary of the work achieved under this heading:—

Type of Factory	Registered	Inspections	Defects Found	Remedied
Factories with power ...	97	110	2	2
Factories without power	86	125	2	2
Other premises ... ..	74	141	2	2
	257	376	6	6

The defects which have to be dealt with are unsatisfactory sanitary conveniences 2, insufficient sanitary conveniences 3, and provision of fire escapes 1.

b. **Shops Act, 1935**

59 shops and offices have been inspected. 2 contraventions of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences were found and abated.

**IX. SUPERVISION OF FOOD**  
**GENERAL**

Routine control of the conditions under which food is stored, prepared and sold in your district is important. Inspections of food premises are carried out regularly.

The general public have become increasingly conscious of the importance of a clean food supply and by so doing are compelling the food trade to adopt higher standards of food hygiene. The emphasis on all schemes of improved food hygiene is primarily with the individual and the personal element is the vital factor in the hygienic handling of food.

One of our more difficult problems is the mobile food shop and delivery van—these vehicles are now being kept under supervision to an increasing extent. The following is a table of food premises in your area and the number of inspections made thereto during the year is 570 :—

FOOD PREMISES										No.
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Meat Processing Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Icecream Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Hotels and Licenced Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
School Cooking Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mobile Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Mobile Canteen and Snack Bar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Food Shops (not included above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

b. **Food Inspection**

The following food was found to be unfit for consumption :—

Commodity	Reason for Condemnation	Weight
Beef ... ..	Bone Taint ... ..	98½ lbs.
Tinned Foods ...	Blown ... ..	139½ „
Chocolate ... ..	Contaminated by Mice ... ..	26½ „
Ice Cream ... ..	Melted : 7 doz. Blocks 1 doz. Tubs	
		264½ lbs.



### **c. Milk**

During the past few years there has been a great change in the methods of milk distribution, and the sale of bottled milk is now the accepted method of retailing this product, whilst the use of the hand can has almost (although not completely) disappeared. There has been a steady increase in the demand for graded milks and the amount of ungraded milk now distributed is each year becoming less.

19 samples of milk have been collected for bacteriological analysis all of which were satisfactory and for biological examination (tuberculosis) and all were free from infection. There are now 12 retailers of milk registered with the Council. Producer-Retailers are now registered with the Ministry of Agriculture.

19 supplementary dealers licences were issued by the Council for graded milks, compared with 14 in the previous year.

### **d. Ice Cream**

32 premises are now registered with the Council for the sale of ice cream compared with 29 in the previous year. Ice cream is not now manufactured in the district and all the ice cream which is sold from registered premises is now wrapped at the point of manufacture and is purchased in the main from manufacturers of national repute. 64 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological grading.

52 samples were placed in provisional grade 1	(81.3%)
8     "     "     "     "     "     "     "	2 (12.5%)
3     "     "     "     "     "     "     "	3 ( 4.7%)
1 sample was     "     "     "     "     "	4 ( 1.5%)

Apart from the sample in grade 4, all the remaining samples can be considered satisfactory and the above-named results are a considerable improvement on the previous years.

The most pressing problem under this heading is the itinerant vendor who visits the district infrequently but mainly week-ends and during Bank Holidays.

## **X. MISCELLANEOUS**

### **a. Camping and Moveable Dwellings**

There are now 340 moveable dwellings on 12 licensed sites in your area. These sites are under constant supervision and are inspected annually by your Camping Ground Sub-Committee. It is interesting to note that at the date of the Census in 1951, there were only 6 caravans in occupation. This confirms my own records that the use of moveable dwellings for permanent occupation is restricted to a very few cases and in 2 of these cases, that occupation has extended over very many years and is outside the control of the Council.

There is an obvious lessening in demand for sites for moveable dwellings and the present sites are gradually being improved.

#### **b. Public Conveniences**

The Public Conveniences owned by your Council at Wetherby and Boston Spa and those owned by the Wetherby Parish Council at the King George Playing Fields, Wetherby, have continued to give every satisfaction. Your Council, during the year have decided in principle to erect new public conveniences on the car park at Hallfield, Wetherby, and the proposals include ablutionary facilities. Income from the Public Conveniences amounted to £247-19-8 and the expenditure was £568-13-8.

#### **c. Petroleum Act, 1928**

There is an increase in the work under this heading due to the derationing of petrol accompanied by reintroduction of branded types of petrol. In addition, a number of filling stations have been completely reconstructed and one new filling station has been erected. At the moment, there are, in your area, 30 Public Filling Stations and 30 private storage installations. Particular attention is given to the installation of new tanks and pumps and this work has been heavy during the past 12 months. All premises are checked from time to time as to the adequacy of the fire fighting equipment which is available.

#### **d. Civil Defence**

Further work has been done in organising services of Rescue, Water Supply, Sewerage and Mortuary services but development and training is restricted to the availability of volunteers.

#### **e. Schools**

At the year end there was only one school in the district provided with earth closets and it is hoped that during the ensuing year this school will be provided with water carriage sanitation.

A private Boarding School in the district has caused your Council considerable concern regarding the quality of the water supplied privately to those premises, and this matter was under energetic consideration at the year end.

#### **f. Dangerous Buildings**

Two dangerous buildings were dealt with during the year.

#### **g. Land Charges**

363 Land Charge requisitions were referred to me for information. This work which can have important legal consequences, demands careful consideration and scrutiny, of each requisition.



## **h. Rodent Control**

Systematic progress under this heading has continued and your Rodent Operative has done effective work throughout the year. The statistical details are not a true reflection of the amount of work put in as when visiting premises for other purposes, it is inevitable that attention is given to the degree to which the premises are, or are not infested.

I must again draw attention to the legal requirements which make it obligatory for a farmer or threshing contractor to erect a fence 30in. high around ricks when threshing and to secure the adequate destruction of rats on such occasions.

The Council property infested, i.e. refuse tips and sewage works are treated regularly and systematically. It is found in practice that these sites act as focal points, particularly in the winter months for the accommodation of rats which during the summer would otherwise leave the sites in favour of more open conditions, and therefore the work carried out on tips and sewage works is of considerable importance in the control of rodent infestation.

### **PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

	1953
Total inspections of properties ... ..	129
Premises infested by rats (major) ... ..	10
Premises infested by rats (minor) ... ..	51
Premises seriously infested by mice ... ..	8
Number of premises treated ... ..	60
Notices served requiring treatment ... ..	—

## **i. Atmospheric Contamination**

For some years, there has been installed adjacent and in the Council Offices apparatus recording the amount of soot deposit and sulphur content in the atmosphere. The information so recorded is forwarded to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the appended figures are indicative of the extent to which your district is affected by the “ smoke drift ” from the nearby industrial area.

In addition, although there is locally a negligible amount of industrial pollution, there is an appreciable contribution to the soot that falls day by day from the domestic chimney. The increased use of “ all night burning grates ” in houses, has resulted in the emission of smoke in greater quantities particularly at night time due to the damping down of such grates and the consequent burning of coal at a low temperature. There is, of course, no statutory powers to deal with smoke nuisances from domestic appliances, but the question of atmospheric pollution, even in a rural area such as this is one which is likely to demand increasing attention.



Deposits of grit, soot, etc., from the atmosphere are collected in a deposit gauge, which also collects the rainfall. This is situate in the grounds of the Council Offices and the deposit is measured monthly and results sent to the Department of Industrial and Scientific Research, London.

Results are also obtained to show the smoke concentration and the amount of sulphur in the atmosphere.

A summary of the results obtained during 1953 together with comparisons of similar results taken in Leeds and Harrogate is shown below :—

	Total Rainfall (inches)		Total Solids Deposited (tons/sq. m.)		Smoke Concentration Average (mg. per cu. m./day)		Sulphur in Atmosphere Average (mg. per 100 sq. cm./day)
Wetherby R.D.C. ...	19.54	...	111.78	...	0.158	...	0.87
Harrogate (Valley Gardens)	24.65	...	101.69	...	0.099	...	0.61
Leeds (Market Build's)	20.30	...	348.87	...	0.664	...	2.53

j. **National Assistance Act, 1948**

**Burial of the Dead**

Under the above named Act it is the Council's responsibility to ensure the proper burial of persons who have died and there is no other person responsible for their disposal. During the year it was necessary to take action in one case.

k. **Disinfection and Disinfestation**

Routine terminal disinfestation is carried out by the Department after the recovery of patients nursed at home. Two cases occurred during the year requiring disinfestation to deal with verminous insects. Assistance is frequently sought by occupiers of premises for advice and action concerned with a wide range of infestation—crickets, cockroaches, wasps and furniture beetles.

l. **Contracts**

The preparation of contracts including Specifications, Bills of Quantities and Drawings has again taken up considerable time. Contracts include works carried out on behalf or in default of owners under statutory notice, various water main extensions, the construction of the new central depot at Wetherby and housing estate roads.

Contracts brought forward from 1953 ...	11	...	£7,950
Contracts under tender during 1953 ...	14	...	£11,865

## APPENDIX A

Statement required by Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers  
(Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Housing Nuisances					Outstanding 31-12-52	Found 1953	Abated 1953	Outstanding 31-12-53
Dirty and/or verminous	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—
Disrepair	...	...	...	...	92	264	247	109
<b>Drainage:</b>								
Defective	...	...	...	...	6	109	111	4
Inadequate	...	...	...	...	4	41	38	7
Blocked	...	...	...	...	—	72	72	—
Defective sinks	...	...	...	...	6	47	44	9
Light and ventilation (inadequate)					9	12	14	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Paving (inadequate/Def.)	...	...	...	...	6	47	40	13
<b>Refuse Storage:</b>								
Pail Closet Renewal	...	...	...	...	2	7	9	—
Middens abolished	...	...	...	...	31	20	41	10
<b>Sanitary Conveniences:</b>								
Defective	...	...	...	...	2	51	51	2
Inadequate	...	...	...	...	5	34	31	8
Conversions to W.C.	...	...	...	...	18	75	77	16
„ „ P.C.	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Serious dampness	...	...	...	...	10	22	25	7
<b>Sewage Disposal:</b>								
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	6	10	9	7
Direct to streams	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—
Water supply (unsatisfactory)					33	25	31	27
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>								
General	...	...	...	...	1	10	9	2
Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	...	6	53	51	8
Food Storage (unsatisfactory)					—	17	15	2
					237	920	919	238

## GENERAL NUISANCES

(Total of premises or cases dealt with)

	Outstanding 31-12-52	Found 1953	Abated 1953	Outstanding 31-12-53
Offensive accumulation ...	—	4	4	—
Animal Keeping ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dangerous Buildings ... ..	—	2	2	—
Food Premises (defects) ...	4	12	12	4
Factories ... ..	3	6	6	3
Rodent infestation ... ..	—	—	—	—
River and Stream Pollution	—	3	3	—

## SEWERAGE

Blocked sewers ... ..	—	43	43	—
Defective sewers ... ..	—	4	2	2
Shops (defects) ... ..	—	2	2	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	1	14	13	2
	8	90	87	11
Total all Nuisances ... ..	245	1010	1006	249

## GENERAL PROVISION OF SERVICES

Piped Water Supply 31	Baths ... .. 62
W.C's. (new) ... .. 110	Hot Water ... .. 104
Re-drainage ... .. 57	Sewer Connections ... 192
Septic Tanks ... .. 24	Sinks ... .. 41

## NOTICES ISSUED

	Informal	Statutory
Outstanding 1952 ... ..	146	39
Issued 1953 ... ..	417	39
Complied with 1953 ... ..	476	38
Outstanding 31-12-53 ... ..	87	40
Legal Proceedings ... ..	—	1



## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Building Byelaw (New Buildings) ... ..	730
Building Licencing ... ..	221
Bakehouses ... ..	110
Slaughterhouses ... ..	14
Cowsheds and Dairies ... ..	27
Conversion of Earth Closets ... ..	431
Camping ... ..	210
Factories Act ... ..	376
Food Premises ... ..	310
Nuisances—General ... ..	288
Housing Nuisances ... ..	924
Housing (inc. Rural Housing Survey) ... ..	1254
Housing Programme (New Houses) (See also Building Byelaws) ... ..	310
Ice Cream ... ..	115
Meat and Food Inspection (unfit) ... ..	37
Public Cleansing ... ..	631
Salvage ... ..	197
Rodent Control ... ..	129
Sewerage ... ..	276
„ (proposed schemes) ... ..	141
Schools ... ..	43
Shops (sanitation) ... ..	59
Town Planning ... ..	510
Waterworks ... ..	843
„ (proposed schemes) ... ..	378
Miscellaneous ... ..	144









